

SCHOOL SYSTEM CONSIDERATIONS CHECKLIST

Here are some of the potential areas of difference for you to look out for:

- Grade levels may be described in different terms, such as Primary, Early Years, Middle Years, Intermediate, Junior High School, Senior High School, Secondary School, Senior Years, High School, Cycle 1, Cycle 2, and CEGEP.
- Upon graduation, students may earn a high school diploma, diploma of secondary studies, diploma of vocational studies, or attestation of vocational specialization, for example.
- Some provinces have special requirements in order to graduate, such as community service hours or special assessments, which can be a surprise if not known in advance.
- No matter the age of your children, review the educational structure in the new province to understand how it may affect your family. At a minimum, consider the following for your new location:
 - School board availability (Public, Catholic, French, English, Alternative, Private)
 - School board requirements (provincial language laws and baptismal status may affect eligibility)
 - French immersion availability and options (grades, entry requirements, etc.)

You may want to consider:

- Is the language of instruction or religion of your child's school important to you?
- Is the school in your new neighbourhood? Is it likely to have students from your local community or will there be students from across the region?
- What modes of transportation are available and how long is the journey to and from school?
- How many students attend the school and what is the average class size?
- Does the school environment feel welcoming?
- Does the school offer programs that interest your children (for example, music, art, design, auto shop, etc.)?
- What extracurricular activities are offered at the school (such as sports, clubs, travel, teams, etc.)?
- Does the school offer robust transition and support programs (such as peer support, tutoring programs, reading clubs, etc.)?
- If you are considering home schooling, what are the provincial systems and curricula to support that option?

Remember...

Selecting a school is a big decision and it can have a significant impact on your children. A little research in advance can help make your decision easier and your little ones happy.